

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The specification has been amended as to form.

The claims have been amended to clarify the original recitations. In summary, the invention provides messages with a valid range (e.g., a valid geographic position range) that are selected by a message filter unit among all the messages received by a message reception unit.

These selected messages with a valid geographic position range are temporarily stored in a message storage unit. A message delivery assessment unit periodically compares the valid geographic position range specified by stored messages with a current geographic position (obtained by a positioning unit). In this way, the invention determines if the message reception device is currently within the valid geographic position range specified by any of the stored messages. When the user is within any of the specified valid geographic position ranges, a message delivery unit delivers the corresponding message to a user. As a result, the message reception device can deliver the messages appropriate (valid) to a current geographic position of the user.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected as obvious over SCHNEIDER 6,442,549 in view of HOFFBERG 6,850,252.

To the extent that SCHNEIDER discloses messages with a valid range, there is no disclosure or teaching of messages

having a valid geographic position range (the independent claims), e.g., wherein the valid geographic position range comprises a fixed geographic position and a distance from the fixed geographic position (claim 2), the current geographic position being as determined by a Global Positioning System (claim 8).

Although HOFFBERG may disclose monitoring local relative positioning, HOFFBERG does not teach the features of the presently amended claims. Specifically, HOFFBERG does not teach received messages having a valid geographic position range included therein; the valid geographic position range comprising a fixed geographic position and a distance from the fixed geographic position; or the current geographic position being determined by a Global Positioning System.

Applicant believes that the combination of these two references are improper as HOFFBERG is non-analogous to SCHNEIDER. Although HOFFBERG is asserted by the Official Action to be in the same field of endeavor as SCHNEIDER, this is not the case as the subject matter of the two references has nothing to do with each other and the problems being addressed by SCHNEIDER.

In any event, even if combined, fair combination of the two references would not render obvious the present claims.

More specifically, the two references, taken individually or in any reasonable combination, teach the recitations of the independent claims or all the recitations of

the dependent claims. For example, claim 1 recites "message filter means for screening messages for a valid range including a valid geographic position range, from said received messages, to identify a message with a valid geographic position range;". Such identification is not found in the references.

Further, applicant does not see disclosure of the recited "positioning means for measuring a current geographic position of the message reception means;".

Still further, applicant does not see the recited "message delivery assessment means for assessing whether the current geographic position is within the geographic position range of the identified message;".

Although a general message delivery means is known, applicant does not see any message delivery means delivering messages "based upon the current geographic position being determined to be within the geographic position range" specified as being valid for a received message.

Thus, claim 1 is believed to be patentable.

As to claim 2, the feature of "wherein the valid geographic position range comprises a fixed geographic position and a distance from the fixed geographic position" is not found in the references.

As to claims 3-4 and 9, the references are not found to teach further that the screening of the messages for a valid range is targeted to messages satisfying a predetermined

condition, e.g., wherein the predetermined condition, is a sender of the message with a valid range, the valid range being a message sender who is expected and who is not unwanted by the user (claim 4).

The references are not found to teach that, for geographically dependent messages, there further being a time expiration feature as per claims 5-7.

As noted above, claim 8 recites the current geographic position is determined by a Global Positioning System. This is not found in the applied references.

Claim 10 has been amended to clarify that the message delivery means i) assesses whether a pointer information, pointing to external information, is included in the identified message, ii) upon determining the identified message includes the pointer information, obtains the information, pointed to by the pointer information, from the network, and iii) delivers the obtained information to the user. This combination is not found in the references.

Claim 12 recites the invention as a method. There is recites screening received messages to identify messages with a valid geographic position range and storing the identified messages including the corresponding valid geographic position ranges. Another recited step is measuring a current geographic position of the portable reception device. Still another recited step is selecting, from the stored identified messages, a message

with a valid geographic position range for which the measured current geographic position is within the valid geographic position range. This step provide for delivering the selected message to a user upon the current geographic position being determined to be within one of the stored valid geographic position ranges, the corresponding one of the stored messages being then delivered to the user.

The applied art has been carefully considered and is not believed to teach or suggest this combination of features.

Claims 13-20 are believed patentable for the reasons stated the previously discussed claims with similar recitations.

Independent claim 21 recites at a portable reception device, a function screening received messages to identify messages with a valid geographic position range; and a function of storing a identified message with a valid geographic position range in a message storage unit, and delivering a message which was not identified to include a valid geographic position range to a user.

This geographic position analysis and response is not found in the applied references.

Independent claims 22-23 are also believed to be non-obvious over the prior art for the reasons discussed above.

The applied references are not seen to disclose measuring a current geographic position of a computer and using this measured geographic position to select for display (from

plural messages with valid geographic position ranges) a message based on the selected message having a valid geographic position range for which the measured current geographic position is found to be within (claim 22).

Nor does the prior art teach screening messages with for a valid geographic position range and, delivering the messages without the valid geographic position range but storing those messages with the valid geographic position range. From this stored group, the invention delivers a message when the current geographic position is found to be within a valid geographic position range of that stored message.

The applied references do not make this teaching.

In view of the above, applicant respectfully submits that the presently-presented claims are patentable over the prior art. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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